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SUBJECT: HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION (HMA) FY06 COUNTRY

PLANNING INPUTS

REF: SECSTATE 105813

A) U.S. INTERESTS AND EQUITIES

A veteran in the Global War on Terror, Sri Lanka has engaged the Foreign Terrorist Organization-designated Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for nearly twenty years on both the battle field and the peace table. Peace talks have not progressed. U.S. national security interest is focused on efforts to move the government of Sri Lanka (GSL) and LTTE towards a negotiated settlement of the conflict. The Humanitarian Demining (HD) program has been a bright light in a darkening situation. The U.S. will support efforts that foster national reconciliation and assist in developing and implementing strategies to meet the humanitarian needs of the northern and eastern populations in a post-conflict environment.

1B. END STATE

To build a national humanitarian demining capacity within the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) that fully integrates manual, mechanical and mine detecting dogs by the end of 2006.

1C. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal A: Protect Victims of Conflict

--Objective 1: Train and supervise military deminers to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) so that no more than five (5) accidents occur in FY 2006. SLA had only one (1) demining accident in 2005. OBJECTIVE MET.

--Objective 2: Reduce civilian casualties through Mine Risk Education (MRE) and HD. Civilian casualties reported in FY 2005 are 39, a 62% reduction of 2003 reported figures. OBJECTIVE MET.

Goal B: Develop Host Nation Capacity

--Objective 1: Complete integration of mechanical clearance systems into demining operations. Outfit backhoe with polycarbonate sheeting for blast protection. Train SLA in the use of PROMAC and MAXX Plus mechanical clearing systems. OBJECTIVE MET.

--Objective 2: Increase number of mechanical systems. Current mechanical systems inventory includes one (1) backhoe fitted with a PROMAC brushcutter, one (1) MV-4 mini flail donated through Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) and one (1) MAXX Plus on loan for testing and evaluation from the U.S. Army. SLA hopes to expand mechanical systems to a total of eight (8) MV-4 mini flails and four (4) backhoes fitted with PROMAC brushcutters. Japanese funding is planned to be used to purchase three (3) mini-flails and one (1) backhoe in FY 2005 - 2006. DOD will provide two (2) Tempest mechanical clearance systems. OBJECTIVE OPEN.

--Objective 3: Train one additional demining squadron including "trainers", medics and senior management level staff. Each demining squadron will be attached to each Engineer Regiment. OBJECTIVE MET. SLA plans to train an additional 40-60 deminers each year to allow for attrition, transfers and professional development. Technical advisors should be provided through 2006 to ensure the SLA is fully capable of continuing operations without oversight.

--Objective 4: In partnership with the Marshall Legacy Institute, begin integrating an additional six (6) Mine Detecting Dog (MDD) teams in FY 2005. OBJECTIVE MET. In FY 2005 one of the original MDDs has been unable to adjust to the heat in Jaffna and has had to be returned. For FY 2006 train one (1) replacement canine.

--Objective 5: Increase productivity by increasing vehicle support. Each mine clearance site requires a dedicated ambulance. This limits a mine squadron to one job site and leaves deminers idle. Further, since deminers operate far from their regimental camps, transportation of food and equipment to the field becomes an issue. Procure eight (8) additional ambulances, six (6) general purpose trucks and six (6) crewcab trucks (NOTE: Demining squadron commanders faced very jealous senior SLA officers when they were provided with Pajero SUVs. Rather than an Toyota HiLux crew cab they

requested the plain Mitsubishi Canter END NOTE). The mini flail and MAXX Plus were not designed for self transportation and arrived without a trailer and truck. Procure two (2) lowboy trailers and two (2) prime movers rated at 15K kg each. OBJECTIVE OPEN.

D. ASSESSMENT OF HOST NATION STRATEGY

Sri Lanka's mine action strategy has two components. The first is to clear land for resettlement. Without mine clearance no resettlement is possible, and without resettlement the cease-fire cannot develop to a sustainable peace. The second component is to implement mine action activities in support of reconstruction and development projects. The goal of the GSL is to clear all high priority areas by 2008. (NOTE: The original goal date of 2006 was based on projections by some international demining operators and did not take climatic conditions and geographic access into account. Although no formal country-wide landmine impact survey has been conducted, the SLA has conducted numerous technical surveys which led them to adjust the target date. END NOTE)

E. EFFECTIVENESS OF CURRENT PROGRAM

The national program is working very well and prioritization is effective. The District Steering Committee (DSC) includes representatives from all stakeholders in the affected district (i.e. NGOs, government agencies and others). The DSC develops the order in which mine contamination is tackled, by which means it is carried out (clearance technical survey, marking, MRE, etc.) and carried out by implementing partners.

The U.S. supported SLA demining program has built upon its early successes and exceeded expectations in all elements of their program expansion. Landmine accidents involving SLA deminers have almost been eliminated by maintaining IMAS standards. Civilian casualties have dropped 60% in the last 12 months due to a combination of SLA deminers and an effective MRE program. In 2006, NADR funds will continue to train SLA deminers, replace the dog lost due to climate and expand the integration of mechanical mine clearance systems. U.S. relations with Sri Lanka are improved through our support of the SLA humanitarian demining program, which is recognized as a high point in the landscape of the peace process.

Progress

	Planned	Actual
Trends		
Train Deminers	140	225
Exceeded		
Trained and deployed 25 Officers, 28 Senior NCOs, 152 deminers and 20 medics.		
Increase Mechanical Systems	1	3
Exceeded		
Backhoe with PROMAC brushcutter, MV-4 mini flail and MAXX Plus are all operational.		
Increase Mine Detecting Dogs	6	6
Met		
Completed training of 6 handlers and MDDs donated through Marshall Legacy Institute. Despite the loss of the FY04 dog a total of 11 MDD teams are operational.		
Reduce Civilian Casualties	N/A	
39	Decreasing	
By the end of 2003 reported casualties were 102, current figures show a 61.7% drop from 2003 and a 2.5% drop from 2004		
Reduce Military Casualties	5	1
Decreasing		
The only casualty involved a deminer who removed his helmet and knocked himself unconscious on a low hanging branch and fell onto a mine.		
Land Cleared	N/A	1.7m
The figure listed above (1.7 million square meters) covers November 1, 2004 - May 31, 2005 for the USG trained/equipped SLA deminers trained to IMAS. 9.128 million square meters have been cleared by all operators in the country since January 1 2003. The SLA has cleared 3.887 million square meters, 42% of all the cleared land.	N/A	
Mines Destroyed	N/A	5,634
N/A		
UXO Destroyed	N/A	86
N/A		

The figures listed above are from SLA operation from January 1, 2003 - May 31, 2005. The efforts of all operators in Sri Lanka during the same period have destroyed a total of 119,002 devices. The breakdown is as follows: AP mines 78,836 (5,632 by SLA), AT mines 51 (2 by SLA), UXO 20,368 (86 by SLA).

UNICEF plays a leading role in coordinating and advising MRE activities. The results are apparent in the low numbers of reported civilian mine casualties. MRE was not funded or linked to FY05 goals or objectives.

1F. OTHER AGENCY/ORGANIZATION EQUITIES

DOD: MAXX Plus clearance system was delivered to SLA for a six month test and evaluation period. Planned delivery of two (2) Tempest clearance system in late FY 2005 or FY 2006.

USAID: The Leahy War Victims Fund is providing \$3,746,100 for a five year program (April 2002 - April 2007) for a project that enhances people with mobility disabilities. This program introduces polypropylene prosthetic technology and expands rehabilitation service to include job placement, peer support and advocacy. The program has issued 231 leg prosthetics and 99 orthotic braces to mine victims from their Jaffna office. The center has also provided physical and psychosocial therapy to 500 patients. The project has also conducted a needs assessment survey in the towns of Mannar, Trincomalee and Kilinochi. The program hopes to open an office in Mannar in FY06 partnering with a Catholic charity.

Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI): MLI raised funds in 2004 to purchase and train six MDDs. DOS assumes the cost for in-country dog/handler training and integration of dogs into the demining program. Funding for the replacement MDD is still in question.

Norwegian People's Aid: Runs a 1.2 million USD demining program in Sri Lanka funded by Norway. Through the UNDP Norway also funds another 1.2 million USD for general mine actions.

European Commission: The EC has contributed 15.7 million USD towards mine actions in Sri Lanka from 2002 - 2005. These funds have been distributed to Mine Advisory Group, HALO Trust, Norwegian People's Aid, Danish Demining Group, UNDP Mine Action Project and UNICEF. The EC has just signed two projects totaling 1.7 million USD with UNICEF and 2.6 million USD with UNDP for MRE and Survivor Assistance (SA) projects. The EC budgeted 1.69 million USD for anti-personnel landmine clearance for 2005-2006. A contribution of 1.3 million USD is projected for 2007.

1G. PROGRAM SUMMARY

11. U.S. Funds Expended : \$11,937,000 (through FY2005)

12. A total of 503 officer and enlisted ranks have completed the basic demining course. Also 202 officers and enlisted ranks have completed additional demining instruction and management courses, basic and advance trauma courses as well as instruction in the operation of mechanical clearing systems. Eleven (11) mine detecting dog teams have been trained and deployed. One (1) backhoe with PROMAC brushcutter, one (1) MV-4 mini flail and one (1) MAXX Plus mechanical assets are deployed.

13. 71 officers have completed the demining management course and are the core of a highly effective HN demining program.

14. There has been no purchase or lease of high value demining equipment in FY2005.

15. U.S. donated equipment including MAXX , PROMAC, vehicles, computers, detection equipment and personal protective equipment continue to be properly marked, well maintained and used to properly support HD operations.

16. Milestones include the following:

- a) FY06 Replace one (1) MDD in FY06 and assess the feasibility of more MDD teams in FY07.
- b) FY06 Integrate the Tempest and possibly other mechanical systems.
- c) FY06 Increase demining productivity by increasing ambulance capability.
- d) FY06 Support mechanical systems integration with heavy lift capability.
- e) FY06 Complete capacity building and end full time technical advisors.
- f) FY07 Replenish/replace HD supplies and equipment procured in 2003/2004 as required.

H) PRIORITIZED RESOURCE REQUESTS

- 11. Eight (8) field ambulances. Goal B, Objective 5.
- 12. Two (2) lowboy trailers and two (2) prime movers rated at 15K kg each. Goal B, Objective 5.
- 13. Six (6) crewcab pick up trucks. Goal B, Objective 5
- 14. Six (6) general purpose trucks. Goal B, Objective 5
- 15. SLA training of replacement personnel. Goal B, Objective 3
- 16. One (1) Replacement mine detecting dog. Goal B, Objective 4

17. Two (2) backhoes with PROMAC brushcutters. Goal B,
Objective 2.

18. Four (4) MV-4 mini flails. Goal B, Objective 2.

I) IMPACT

Humanitarian demining is a program that puts the GSL and particularly the SLA in the spotlight as a model of a non-sectarian unifying force for good. All communities benefit from HD, and all communities cooperate when demining operations occur in their area. The SLA takes great pride in their program and have consistently demonstrated a vigorous management and operational commitment to building a strong national program. As the only government controlled operation in the country, an increase in Sri Lankan demining capacity will help meet the national strategy to clear high priority tasks by the end of 2008 and reduce the future dependency on donor funded NGOs for mine clearance.

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